



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence
Member of Consultative Committee on Finance
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps
Co-Chairman, District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee, Bengaluru Urban District

28 September 2017

Respected Rashtrapati ji

Sub: Returning medals deposited at Rashtrapati Bhavan by Veterans in 2009

I write to you regarding the gallantry and service medals returned by veterans/ex-servicemen as a mark of protest for their demand of One Rank One Pension (OROP).

As you may be aware in 2009, veterans/ex-servicemen returned 11,000 – 12,000 gallantry and/or service medals in protest against the then government's apathy and rejection of OROP. The medals were returned to the then Supreme Commander Smt. Pratibha Patil and are lying in the custody of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

As someone who led the issue of OROP with the Government and Parliament since 2006 and fighting for the welfare of veterans, I was deeply anguished at the return of medals by the veterans and had appealed to them against doing so again in 2015.

Medals have been given by the country as a recognition of the selfless service and tremendous sacrifices of our soldiers and for gallantry acts to protect the sovereignty of the Nation. To a large extent, OROP had been made operational and so it is fitting that these surrendered medals be returned. Therefore, I request you, to initiate as Supreme Commander an honourable return of these medals to their rightful owners with due ceremony.

Many veterans who have returned their medals are at an advanced age of their lives and it is only the right thing to hand back their medals so that they and their families may keep their legacy safe.

Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Ramnath Kovind
Hon'ble President of India
Rashtrapati Bhavan
New Delhi